

DE 37 18 039 A1

Differences versus claim 1

The mixing fitting according to DE 37 18 039 is installed in accordance with its intended purpose in the opening of a wall that is open outwards. The control module 35 then seals the opening in the wall against the outside in a watertight manner, and, for that purpose, abuts the wall on the outer side with an edge 44, with a gasket installed in between in a recess 45 that is extending all around (see the specification, column 6, lines 33 to 36, and claim 15 of DE 37 18 039).

As distinguished from the above, claim 1 requires, in addition to other features, that the mechanical setting or adjusting element and the controller unit are arranged in one single, compact unit of the device that is suitable for installation under the plaster.

However, no provision is made in DE 37 18 039 for mounting under the plaster both the mechanical setting element (motor transmission module 18) and the registration unit (control module 35 with the electronics). Such an

installation would not be possible at all, to begin with, with the construction according to DE 37 18 039 because in that case, the foil keyboard 40 for adjusting the nominal temperature value, which is integrated in a fixed manner in the control module 35, would be arranged under the plaster as well, which means it would no longer be possible to preset the nominal value.

Furthermore, with the mixing fitting according to DE 37 18 039, provision is made for a motor 21 that controls the flow of cold water via the cold-water valve 13; that another motor 22 controls the flow of hot water via the hot-water valve 12; and that a third motor 23 controls the flow of the mixed water via the changer-over or reversing valve 14. This requires a substantial amount of expenditure.

As distinguished from the above, claim 1 requires, in addition to other features, that the adjusting element is acting on one (single) adjusting body that is supported in a rotatable manner, so that a water mixture corresponding with its rotational position can be prepared within the mixing body that is comprised of the hot and cold water that can be supplied by a hot water feed and a cold water feed.

DE 37 18 039 does not anywhere contain any indications or suggestions pointing in the direction of any combination of the features of claim 1.

Differences vis-à-vis claim 8

With the mixing fitting according to DE 37 18 039, the reference water, the nominal temperature of which can be preset via the foil keyboard 40, can be mixed by means of one single temperature sensor 19 for detecting the actual temperature value.

This published document does not contain any indications or clues suggesting the manner in which the temperature measured by the temperature sensor 19 is evaluated and controlled.

As distinguished from DE 37 18 039, claim 8 requires, in addition to other features, that the gradient of the temperature curve detected by means of the temperature sensor is additionally evaluated, so that it is possible to determine the flow-through, and, furthermore, that the trailing of the setting element is switched off as soon as and as long as the gradient of the temperature curve is falling short of a pre-adjustable threshold value.

DE 37 18 039 does not anywhere contain any indications or suggestions pointing in particular in the direction of these features.